

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0001] on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

**[0001]** ~~Not applicable.~~ This application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/222,550 filed August 3, 2000.

Please replace paragraph [0069] on page 18 with the following amended paragraph:

**[0069]** Loss of function *fpa* alleles were created by both ethylmethanesulfonate (EMS: *fpa-1*, *fpa-2*, and *fpa-4*), and by Agrobacterium-mediated transfer DNA (T-DNA) mutagenesis (*fpa-3*, *fpa-5*, and *fpa-6*). The *fpa-4* allele was determined to be a deletion of a 35kb sequence which eliminated FPA function. This deletion was contained in the BAC 1O24 and sequenced by TIGR (<http://www.tigr.org/tdb/at/atgenome/completed.html>).

Please replace paragraph [0074] on page 19 with the following amended paragraph:

**[0074]** The wild-type summer-annual WS accession of Arabidopsis was transformed with constructs containing the entire FPA gene using Agrobacterium-mediated transformation. The construct was prepared using the isolated *FPA* gene (amplified from genomic Arabidopsis DNA using the primers ATGGCGTTATCTATGAAGCCATTCAGAGCC and TCAAGGCCCTGTCCAGCCGGAGTACC), (both incorporated in SEQ ID NO: 5) and a 35S CaMV promoter. Successful transformants were then collected and grown in conditions to allow assessment of the FPA overexpression on flowering time.

Please replace paragraph [0077] on page 21 with the following amended paragraph:

[0077] Using the *FPA* polynucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:2), late-flowering *Arabidopsis* were generated using both antisense and cosuppression transgenes. An antisense construct was generated using the 5' coding region of *FPA* (amplified by the primers 5' AAGACTTTAAAGGAGATGTTTCAGCC and 5' CCTTTCCCATAGGTACACAACGAGC) (both incorporated in SEQ ID NO: 4) and expressing the opposite strand under control of the CaMV 35S promoter. Primary transformants that displayed delayed flowering were selected and progeny were replanted. Upon replanting, late-flowering plants that phenocopied *fpa* mutants were isolated (i.e., flowered after producing 60 leaves).